THE NAILERS' STRIKE.—A nail master, in *Aris's Gazette*, states, among other reasons why the masters persist in their intention to reduce wages, that the factors and "foggers" who pay in truck are underselling them in the markets, and compelling them to the reduction of wages; but that there are other reasons for the present crisis, among which not the least is the immense extent to which machine cut nails are now being made, and the competition also with articles of foreign produce made at wages very considerably lower than their own. He calls on the men to assist in putting an end to the truck system, but states, that with accumulated stock and small demand, it is impossible for the money-paying masters to meet the demands of the men. This nail master corroborates our recent report of the state of the iron trade, by remarking, that "iron has fallen 10s. to 15s. a ton in Staffordshire," and, indeed, that there is "a fallen market as regards all goods connected with the iron trade, with iron falling still lower," and that "wrought nails can have no immunity from the like result."

RAILING ABOUT ST. PAUL'S.—At a meeting of the City Sewers Commission, a letter from the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, finally negativing the proposed improvement, was read by the clerk, on which a discussion followed, with a very interesting speech by Mr. Blake, in which he showed that the railing had not been directed by Wren himself, and that his desire had been to exhibit it open and unencumbered on all sides, with approaches worthy of its architectural character. Mr. Blake also alluded with regret to the circumstance that the interior should be turned into a mere money-getting puppet-show, instead of being thrown open for the improvement of taste. He read some records connected with the building, and concluded by moving to apply for an Act of Parliament to carry out the proposed improvement. This was seconded by Mr. Barber, who expressed his surprise and regret that Mr. Cockerell, who had warmly approved of the plan at first, had subsequently condemned and opposed it. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

CANAL LOCKS SUPERSEDED.—On the Monkiands Canal, at Blackhill-locks, the waste of water, time, and labour, have been obviated by the substitution of a steep incline, with rails, and water-tight cradles, into one of which latter the boat is floated, when it is drawn up by a wire rope, worked with drums, by the power of a steam-engine, aided by the descending cradle filled with water. Thus in five minutes the half-hour's work of eight locks, costing hitherto 100*l.* a-day, is done at comparatively little expense, and with a waste of no more than the water displaced by each boat, when floated into its cradle. Mr. Leslie, of Edinburgh, the engineer of Dundee Harbour, has adopted this idea from American practice or experiment.

SELF-GENERATING GAS-LAMP.—An accident having occurred with one of Holliday's lamps, whereby a woman was severely burnt by the naphtha falling from it in an inflamed state, and the seller having refused to take back the article as an imperfectly constructed one, an action of damages was brought at *nisi prius*, when evidence was led to the effect that the joints were merely soldered, and not brazed, as they ought to have been,—the inference being that the naphtha had escaped in consequence. For the defender it was urged, that it must have been through carelessness in putting up the lamp that the naphtha was spilt. The jury gave a verdict of 10*l.* damages.

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM, CAMBRIDGE.—The Syndicate, in their first annual report to the senate, state that the new building has been carefully examined by the curator, and found to be without settlements or cracks, and firm and secure throughout, and that the museum has been safely removed into it. Arrangements have been made for the Disney collection in the large west room. The museum has been visited by 40,848 persons during the past year, and not the slightest injury, misconduct, or annoyance has occurred.

WESTMINSTER NEW BRIDGE.—The Committee have decided that the Standing Orders may be dispensed with in the case of the promoters of this measure for a temporary bridge at Westminster.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 19th inst., for the erection of the carcase of a public house, as also of two shops, at Upper Holloway; by 13th, for finishing two houses at Islington; by 13th, for the erection of a set of farm-buildings, near Maldon, Essex; by 15th, for taking down and rebuilding seven houses at St. Luke's; by 27th, for erecting a new wing to the Gloucester County Lunatic Asylum; by 26th, for finishing three houses at Hastings; by 18th, for constructing about 2,700 feet of glazed stone-ware pipe drainage at Upper Holloway; by 29th, for the erection of St. James's Church, Ogley Hay, Wolverhampton; by a date not specified, for construction of some wrought-iron gates in Gothic work, and wrought-iron vanes; by 13th, for construction of additions to bridges at Stratford, Essex; by 15th, for the several works to be done in erecting a public building at St. Mary Cray, Kent; by 14th, for the addition of one or two wings and alterations to the Royal South Hants Infirmary; by 10th, for constructing a tunnel or conduit at Drumbowie, Shotts, near Glasgow; by a date not specified, for laying lines of cast-iron pipes for the Glasgow Water Company; by 15th, for erecting stables and out-buildings at Orlingbury, Northampton; by 15th, for the restoration and alteration of the endowed school at Burton Latimer, Northampton; by 14th, for works in erecting a farm-house at Bannington, near Holcot, Northampton; by 25th, for construction of about 1,410 yards of wharf wall at Birkenhead Docks; by 13th, for the supply of 140 tons of cast-iron sleepers for the York and North Midland Railway; and by 15th, for the supply of materials and labour, in various branches of the building trades, for the Vestry of St. Marylebone,—separate tenders.

PIMLICO.—The derivation of this word is explained from the following passage in a rare (if not unique) tract, entitled, "Newes from Hogsdon, 1598:"—"Have at thee, then, my merrie boyes, and hey for old Ben Pimlico's nutbrowne." Pimlico kept a place of entertainment in or near Hoxton, and was celebrated for his nut-brown ale. The place seems afterwards to have been called by his name, and is constantly mentioned by our early dramatists. In 1609 a tract was printed, entitled, "Pimlyco, or Runne Red Cap, 'tis a Mad World at Hogsdon." Isaac Reed (Dodsley's Old Plays, ed. Collier, vii. 51) says:—"A place near Chelsea is still called Pimlico, and was resorted to within these few years, on the same account as the former at Hogsdon."—*Notes and Queries.*

RAILWAY TRAFFIC.—The traffic receipts on railways in the United Kingdom during first 20 weeks of present year amounted to 4,262,902*l.*, or 793*l.* a-mile,—of 1849, to 3,761,632*l.*, or 827*l.* a-mile,—of 1848, to 3,330,907*l.*, or 916*l.* a-mile,—of 1847, to 2,933,305*l.*, or 1,034*l.* a-mile,—of 1846, to 2,550,775*l.*, or 1,196*l.* a-mile. The length of railways open over which that traffic was carried, in 1850, was 5,470 miles; in 1849, 4,644 miles; in 1848, 3,756 miles; in 1847, 2,990 miles; and in 1846, 2,202 miles. There is a considerable improvement in the traffic receipts per mile during the present year, attributed mainly to comparative falling off in mileage opened.

ROTHERHITHE.—On Saturday, the 1st inst., a new chapel at Rotherhithe was consecrated by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Winchester. It is dedicated to St. Paul; and is in the Early English style, consisting of nave and chancel without aisles, having a bell gable at west end. The porch is on the south side, and there is a small vestry at the north-east angle. The sittings are all free, with accommodation for 300 persons. Mr. Wm. Beatson was the architect. We have not seen it. This is the fourth church erected in the parish through the exertions of the rector, the Rev. Edward Blick.

CONVERSAZIONE.—Lord Londesborough has issued cards for a limited morning meeting at his residence on Monday, the 10th. A mummy from Thebes is to be unrolled.

INFLAMMABILITY OF ASPHALTE.—With reference to a recent occurrence in Herts., the Seyssell Asphalte Company request us to state, that, as appears from a correspondence forwarded, the tank in question was not lined with the bitumen sold under their patent.

IDEAL OF THE VATICAN.—Had the Vatican been built from a regular design, or on any intelligible plan, it might probably have appeared less wonderful than it is, because the mind would have been able to form at once a conception of the whole. At present, it appears like one of the enchanted palaces of the East, in which you might wander for ever without emerging from the labyrinth. You mount, you descend, you turn to the right, to the left, and everywhere find yourself in a blaze of grandeur, consisting principally of the fragments of the ancient world; and if you have the courage to compare the productions of our present civilization with those of our predecessors, you will be compelled to admit the immense superiority of the latter. The statues of Buonarotti, Canova, Thorvaldsen, and others, literally dwindle into insignificance before those of the third-rate sculptors of antiquity; and in vases, candelabra, &c. we have nothing at all to compare with what has been left to us. Taken altogether, the Vatican ought to suggest to its owners ideas of humanity and peace, and of profound veneration for human genius, which has created that universe of beauty and grandeur by which they are surrounded. A description of the Vatican would be an account of all the arts of ancient and modern times, which have there piled up their treasures in profusion.—*Chambers's Journal.*

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—The annual meeting, to be held at Oxford, will commence Tuesday, June 18th, and terminate Tuesday, June 25th. On the 21st, Professor Willis will deliver a discourse on the "Archæological History of Christ Church Cathedral.

TOWN MUSEUM AT LEICKSTER.—A curious relic found on the site of ancient Carthage, and like the lid of a rock tomb or sarcophagus, with symbolical figures not yet explained, has been presented to this museum by the Duke of Rutland, together with a number of books, including Inigo Jones's Designs, Dugdale's Monasticon, &c.

OBSTRUCTION OF LITTLE EXMOUTH-STREET, ST. PANCRAS.—Some correspondents complain that this street has, for the last four weeks, been converted into a stone or paving yard, for the exclusive behoof of streets adjoining, and although the stone-yard of the trust is within 200 yards' distance.

SOMEBODY WRONG.—The following are the tenders delivered for building a church in the Victoria-road, Kensington:—

Higgs and Son	£3,400	0	0
Todd	4,950	0	0
Bird	4,849	0	0
Locke and Nesham	4,530	0	0
Smith and Appleford	4,497	0	0
Kelk	4,475	0	0
Rigby	4,450	0	0
Haward and Nixon	4,375	0	0
Holland	3,573	0	0
Myers	3,540	0	0

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

CUTTING SLATES BY MACHINERY.—Mr. Mathew, one of the partners in the well-known "Rhiwbryfdir Slate Company," has just patented an apparatus for cutting slates from the rough, as well as for cutting them into various shapes, called "fancy slates." This apparatus, from what we hear, is likely to prove itself of great advantage to the Company, as it not only cuts a much larger quantity, but at considerably less expense than can be done by hand, and at the same time the slates are so perfect in shape as not to require any "after-dressing" by the slater before putting them upon the roof. The "fancy slates" are highly ornamental, and whilst they cover with equal security the same space as the square ones, require less timber to support them, and are much less expensive in transit.

TENDERS

For Sunderland Baths and Washhouses — engineering work not included; Mr. T. Oliver, Jun., Architect:—

	Whole work.	Mason, &c.	Joiner and Carpenter.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
W. Tone and Son	1,365 0 0	....	....
Winship and English	1,227 0 0	....	....
J. Hamilton	1,187 0 0	....	....
W. Scott	1,060 0 0	....	....
A. Wardropper*	1,025 0 0	580 0 0	445 0 0
M. Bell	....	751 0 0	....
Carter and Swinburne	....	647 16 9	....
B. Maxfield	....	....	499 10 0
W. Lewis	....	....	399 0 0
P. Maddison	....	....	350 0 0

* The slaters' and painters' and glaziers' works are omitted here.

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